



COSFORD  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health.

---

*For the Year 1938.*

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.



C O S F O R D

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1938.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON. M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of  
Cosford, in the County of West Suffolk, for  
the year ending 31st December, 1938.

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Public Health Offices,  
Westgate House,  
Westgate Street,  
Bury St. Edmund's.

July 1939.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the  
Rural District Council of Cosford.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your  
favourable consideration my third Annual Report as Medical  
Officer of Health being for the year ended 31st December,  
1938.

The "September Crisis" will always  
serve to make 1938 a memorable year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. H. CLAYTON.

Medical Officer of Health.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

ROBERT HOGG CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket Urban,  
Mildenhall, Thedwastre and Thingoe  
Rural Districts and

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer of Health  
West Suffolk.

Sanitary Inspector.

T.A. Eardley, A.R. San. Inst. Meat and Other Foods Certificate,  
Royal Sanitary Institute, also Building  
Surveyor.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	48,530 acres
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population, mid - 1938	8,941
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Book	2,942
Rateable Value	£24,701
Sum represented by a penny rate	£112

The Rural District of Cosford is situated in the south-east of the County of West Suffolk. Agriculture is the only important industry of the District, much of the land being cultivated for the production of Sugar Beet.

The further development of Aerodromes in the neighbourhood during 1938 ensured that very little unemployment occurred throughout the year, indeed a scarcity of builders labourers and of agricultural labourers was often evident.



2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Total.. M F

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	(Legitimate 114 58 56 Illegitimate 4 - 4)	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.2
<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	(Legitimate 5 2 3 Illegitimate - - -)	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births	40.7
<u>DEATHS.</u>	132 71 61	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:-	
		CRUDE	14.8
		CORRECTED	10.9

There were no DEATHS from PUERPERAL CAUSES (Headings 29 & 30  
of the Registrar General's short list.)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	33.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	35.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
DEATHS FROM:- <u>CANCER</u> (All ages)	23
<u>MEASLES</u> "        "	Nil
<u>WHOOPING COUGH</u> "        "	Nil
<u>DIARRHOEA</u> (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The Death Rates above are estimated on the Registrar General's figures which are identical with those prepared locally.

Our population increased by 29 in 1938 following a decrease in 1937 of 179, the number of births in 1938 was 9 more than in 1937 but 22 less than the 1936 figure and the deaths which exceeded the births by 14 were 13 less than in 1937 and 6 more than in 1936.

The Birth Rate in our District (13.2) is higher than in 1937 (12.2) but below that of England and Wales (15.1).

The Corrected Death Rate 10.9 is only 0.74 of the Crude Death Rate 13.2. Each of these Rates compares favourably with the District Rates in 1937 (Corrected Death Rate 12.0, Crude Death Rate 16.3), and with the Death Rate of England and Wales (12.4). The improvement in the Death Rates is merely an indication of a very satisfactory year.



Of the four deaths under one year, two died on the day of birth, one on the fourth day, whilst the remaining child aged 5 months succumbed to Miliary Tuberculosis, a very rare condition at such age.

No children died between the ages of 1 - 5 years whilst the three children in age group 5 - 15 succumbed as a result of a growth, removal of tonsils and injury caused by a farm waggon. The only other death occurring in the nonage was that of a youth aged 19 following a collision with a car and his cycle.

74% or 97 of the total 132 deaths were of persons aged 60 years or more. An indication of the longevity of the inhabitants of the District is furnished by the following table.

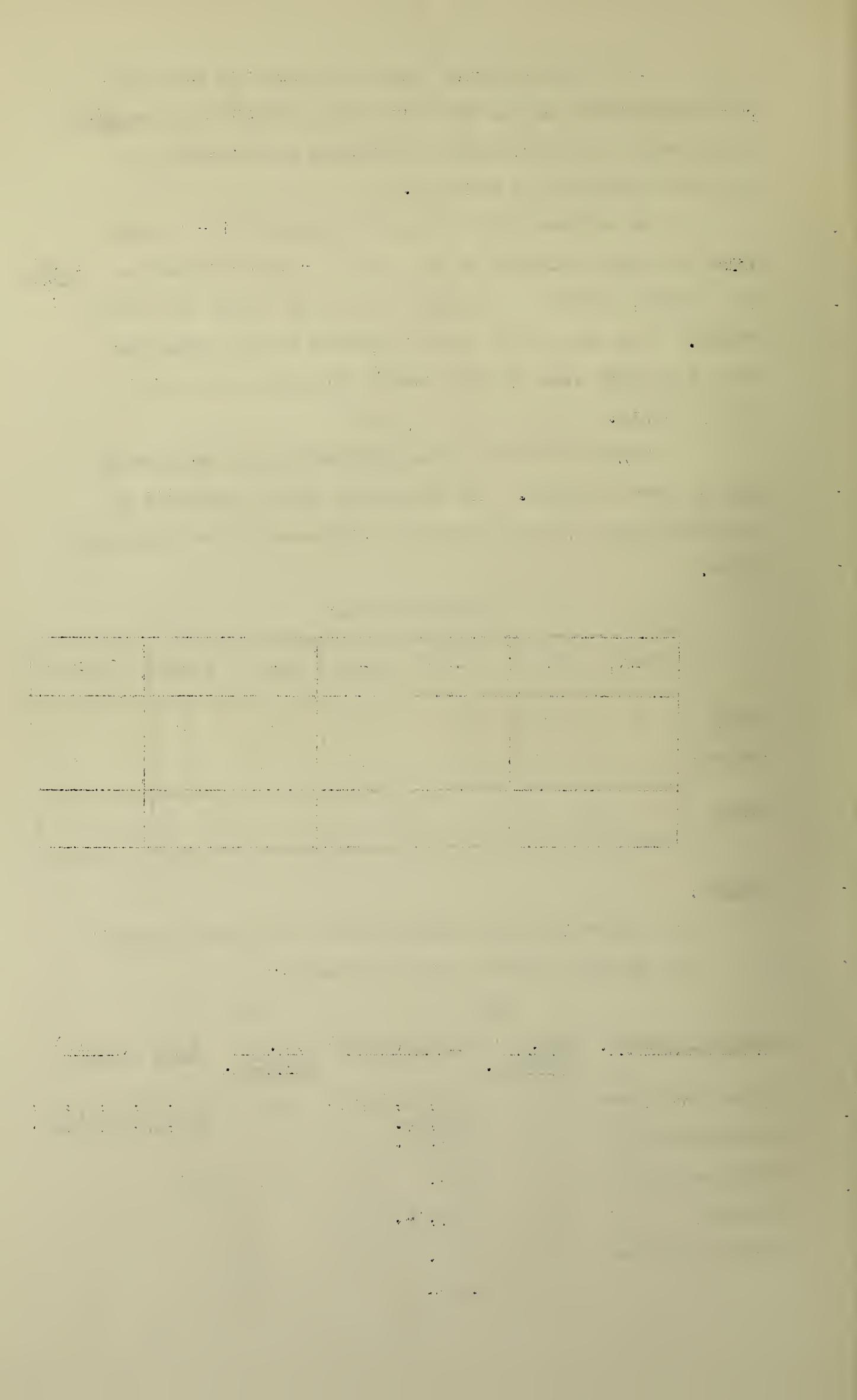
Deaths at ages

	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	Over 90
Males	2	10	8	12	12	3	-
Females	5	7	10	13	7	6	2
TOTAL		24		43		28	2

#### CANCER.

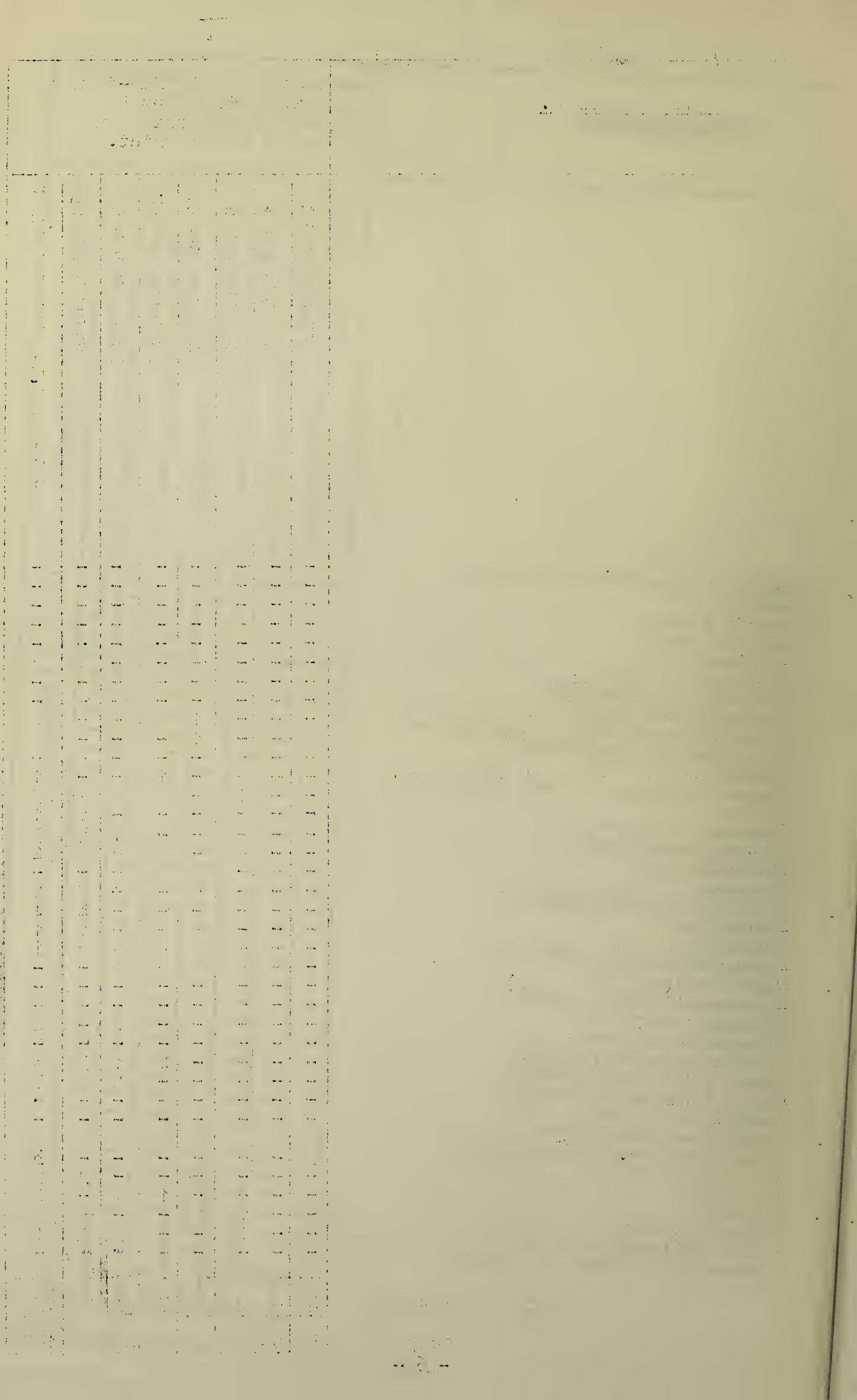
The following table indicates the site of the growths and the ages and sex of the persons:-

<u>Site of growth.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>No. of deaths.</u>	<u>Ages (years)</u>	<u>No. of deaths.</u>	<u>Ages (years)</u>
Digestive System	6		79,72,68,67, 61,57.	10		84,77,76,75,72, 71,69,68,68,58.
Respiratory "	2		69,29.			
Reproductive "	1		29.		1	61
Urinary "	2		77,11,			
Central Nervous "	1		50.			



CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Deaths at the Sub-joined  
ages of "Residents"  
whether occurring in  
or beyond District.



CAUSES OF DEATHS.  
MALES.

Deaths at the Sub-joined  
ages of MALE RESIDENTS  
whether occurring in or  
beyond District.

Registrar General's Figures

65 and upwards

45 and under 65

25 and under 45

15 and under 25

5 and under 15

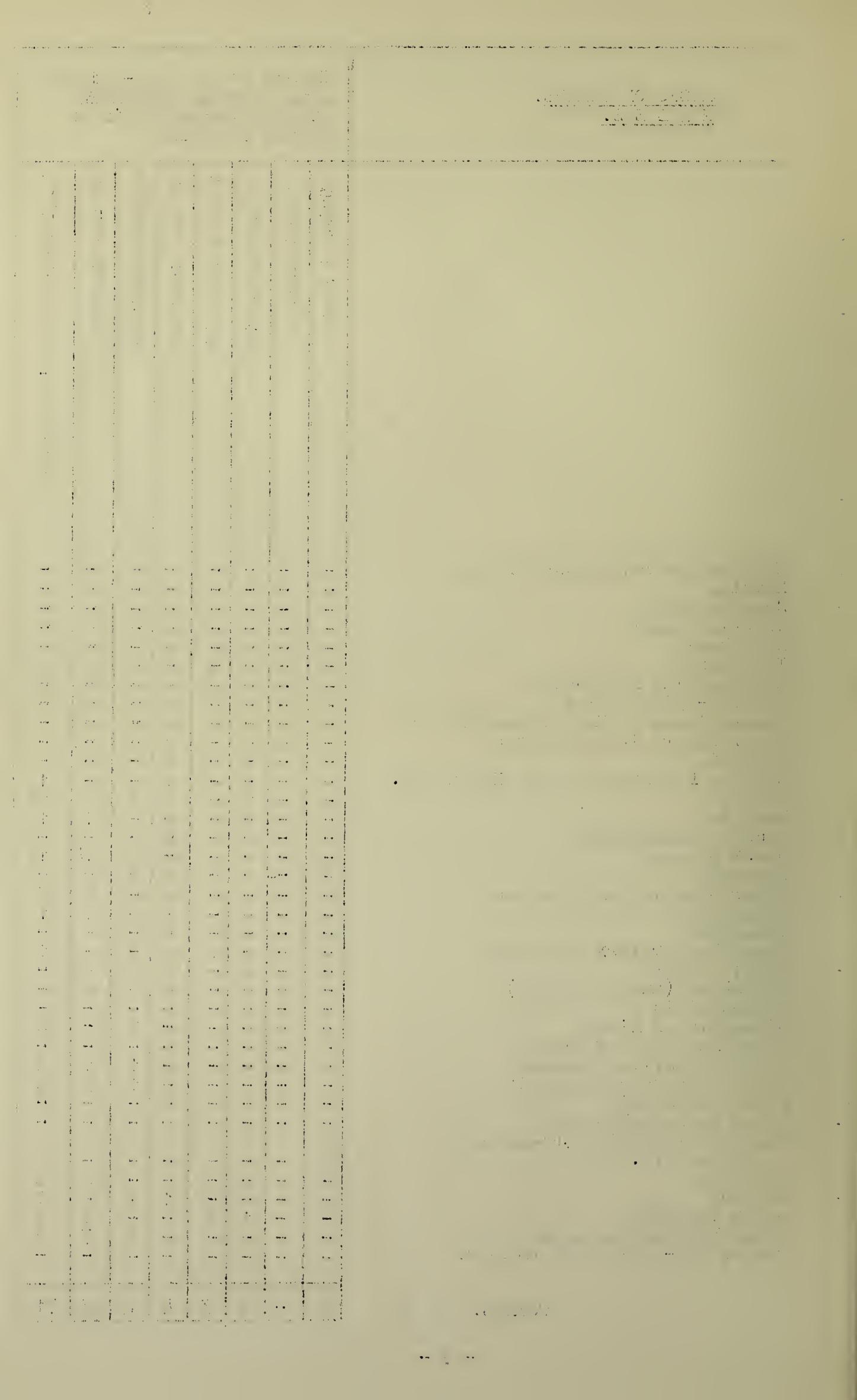
1 and under 5

Under 1 year

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers  
Measles  
Scarlet Fever  
Whooping Cough  
Diphtheria  
Influenza  
Encephalitis Lethargica  
Cerebro-spinal Fever  
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System  
Other Tuberculous Diseases  
Syphilis  
General Paralysis of the Insane &c.  
Cancer  
Diabetes  
Cerebral Haemorrhage  
Heart Disease  
Aneurysm  
Other Circulatory Diseases  
Bronchitis  
Pneumonia  
Other Respiratory Diseases  
Peptic Ulcer  
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)  
Appendicitis  
Cirrhosis of Liver  
Other Diseases of Liver  
Other Digestive Diseases  
Acute & Chronic Nephritis  
Puerperal Sepsis  
Other Puerperal Causes  
Congenital Debility, Premature  
Births etc.  
Senility  
Suicide  
Other Violence  
Other Defined Diseases  
Causes ill-defined or unknown

TOTALS.

2 - 2 3 4 15 45 71



CAUSES OF DEATHS.  
F E M A L E S.

Deaths at the Sub-joined  
ages of FEMALE RESIDENTS  
whether occurring in or  
beyond District.

**TOTALS -**

Table 1. Frequency distribution of the number of species per sample

Number of species	Number of samples	Percentage
0	1	0.00
1	1	0.00
2	1	0.00
3	1	0.00
4	1	0.00
5	1	0.00
6	1	0.00
7	1	0.00
8	1	0.00
9	1	0.00
10	1	0.00
11	1	0.00
12	1	0.00
13	1	0.00
14	1	0.00
15	1	0.00
16	1	0.00
17	1	0.00
18	1	0.00
19	1	0.00
20	1	0.00
21	1	0.00
22	1	0.00
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412	1	0.00
413	1	0

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(ii)

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

As in previous years, use has been made of the East Suffolk County Laboratory, Ipswich, for bacteriological examinations, (the Bacteriologist is H.M. Cade, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.) and the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, (the Bacteriologists are Drs. Beale and Suckling).

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These facilities were unaltered in 1938. For Infectious Disease cases - An arrangement with the Ipswich Borough Council. For Non-Infectious cases - the Red Cross Ambulances available at Bury St. Edmund's, Ipswich and Sudbury. These ambulances were adequate for the calls made upon them in 1938.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Every parish in the Area is served in this respect by Voluntary Nursing Associations. Their Nurses also undertake Midwifery, Health Visiting and Public Assistance Work on behalf of the West Suffolk County Council which makes Grants to the Associations.

(d) CLINICS.

The nearest Clinics available to our population for School Children, Maternity and Infant Welfare Work, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases are those conducted by the County Council at Bury St. Edmund's, Hadleigh and Sudbury. Our rural area does not lend itself to the provision of readily accessible Clinics for all our inhabitants.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The East Suffolk Isolation Hospital, Ipswich continues to receive our Infectious Disease cases.



The County Council is actively engaged in preparing for their new Isolation Hospital, which will serve the whole of West Suffolk with the exception of the Newmarket Urban District. There are many advantages to be gained by having one Isolation Hospital to serve the County in peace time and certainly if hostilities should occur a Central Isolation Hospital would greatly assist administration.

#### SECTION C.

##### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

###### (i) WATER.

All public supplies have been satisfactorily maintained. Forty-four samples have been taken from these supplies and submitted to the East Suffolk County Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. Three of the above were described as unfit for domestic use. These were from dug wells, at Thorpe Morieux and Cockfield, and the public pump near Milden Rectory. The wells at Cockfield and Thorpe Morieux have been emptied and cleaned. The result has been satisfactory for Thorpe Morieux, but at Cockfield the water is still unfit. At Milden, the Council has decided to put down a bore well for the houses formerly supplied from the Public pump.

During the year an extension of 410 yards, to Hitcham Street, was made to the main at Hitcham, and a public standpipe was provided for the hamlet of Upper Layham, supplied with water purchased from a private pipeline.

Five new artesian wells have been provided by private enterprise.

Our public water supplies have now been in operation for sufficient time to allow our inhabitants to appreciate their advantages. There is no doubt that they are regarded as a great benefit.



(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The only extension of sewers in the district during the year was at Hall Road, Lavenham, where an extension to serve eight premises was completed.

Various sections of sewers throughout the District were relaid or repaired.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A resident's complaint, sent to the Ministry of Health, concerning the pollution by effluent of a ditch joining the river at Lavenham was investigated by the Council. As saturation point in the river has been reached some nuisance is liable to occur during dry weather.

3 (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closets in use at the end of the year were:-

Privies	1,452
Pail Closets	1,137
Water Closets	108

During the year conversion was obtained to pail closets of eight privy vaults and four water closets were provided in existing houses. The number of privies still exceeds the combined total of pail closets and water closets. The fact that this District is scheduled as a Reception Area is an added reason for improvement in this connection.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The type of house refuse to be collected cannot be restricted, consequently the bi-annual collection of tins and unburnable refuse in Lavenham and Bildeston was discontinued in the latter half of the year.

The Council is thoroughly exploring the desirability of a centralised direct labour scheme for night soil and refuse collection employing dual purpose mechanical vehicles.



(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following particulars of sanitary work during 1938 have been supplied to me by Mr. Eardley.

Number of Inspections.

Houses	Public Health Act	160
	Housing Act	512
	Byelaws	51
Tents, Vans & Sheds		3
Factories		19
Shops		12
Schools		41
Cowsheds & Dairies		267
Slaughterhouses		205
Butchers' Premises		117
Casual Slaughters		2
Samples (Milk 4, Water 52.)		56
Dumps & Tips		51
Drains, Ditches & Watercourses		371
After Infectious Disease		110
Miscellaneous		97
		<u>2074</u>
Re-inspections		<u>107</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>2181</u></b>

Defects Found.

Housing	436
Factories	3
Schools	12
Cowsheds & Dairies	7
Slaughterhouses	5
Dumps & Tips	9
Miscellaneous	9
	<u>481</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Factory Act, 1937.

The following table indicates the number of inspections made under the above Act:-

	<u>Number of:</u>		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	10	2	Nil
" without " "	9	1	-
Other Premises	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>

The 3 defects found (Sanitary Accommodation, 1 Unsuitable, 2 Not Separate) were remedied.



A Conference was arranged with the Sanitary Inspectors in my five Districts and Miss D. McWilliam, H.M. Inspector of Factories, at which was discussed the requirements of the Factory Act, 1937. We received very detailed information from H.M. Inspector at this Conference and have been greatly assisted by Miss McWilliam, who, throughout the year, maintained close co-operation.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The requirements of the Shops' Act, 1934 regarding temperature, ventilation and sanitary conveniences have been brought to the notice of all shop owners in the District. 12 inspections were made during the year.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

No sites are used for camping purposes save by one moveable dwelling at Monks Eleigh.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

All premises in the Area have been conducted during the year without smoke nuisance.

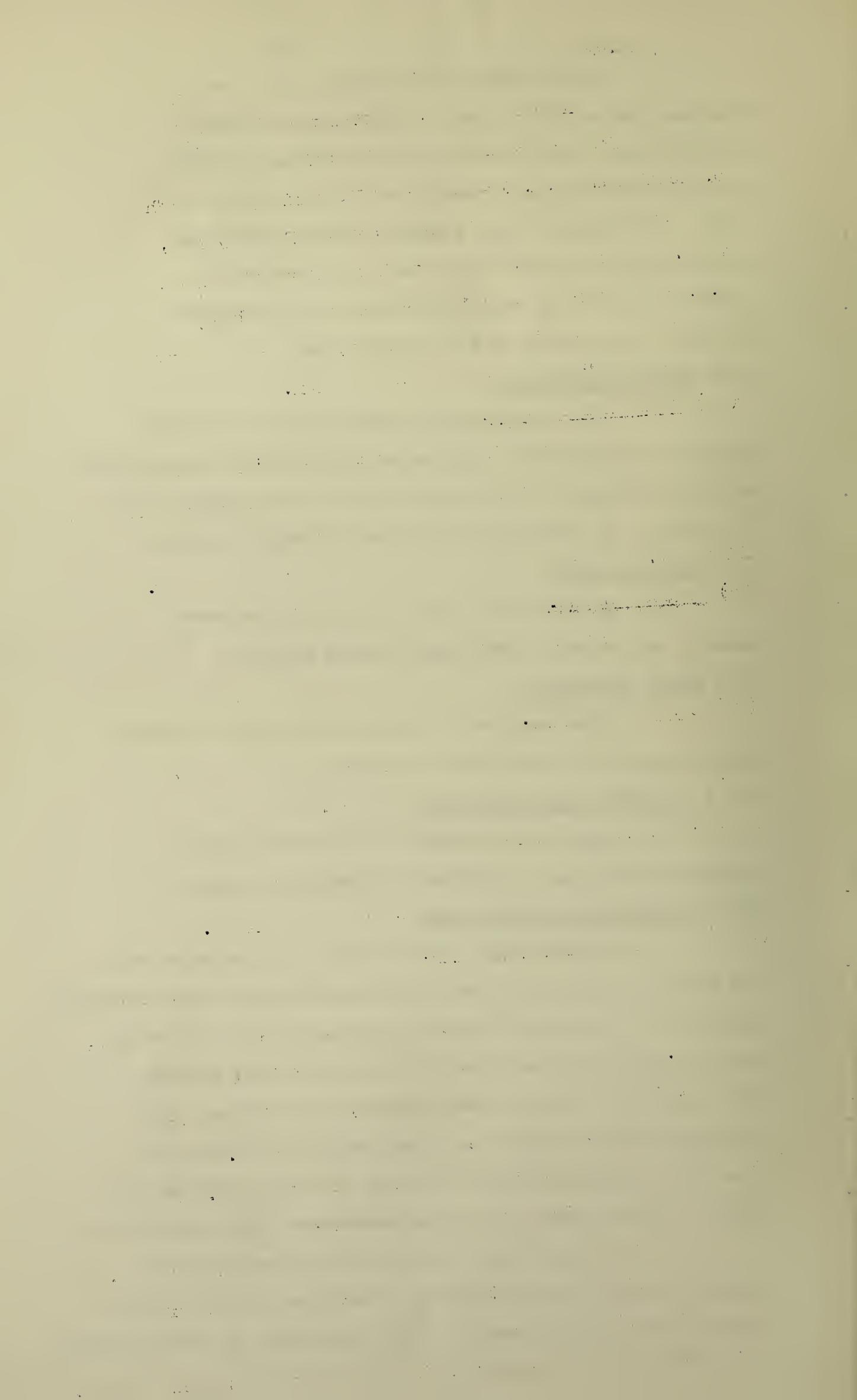
(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths open to the public within the Area.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

A non-council house found to be infested with Bed Bugs was disinfested under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The method employed was that in all infested rooms Solution "D" was freely sprayed, the wall papers, where present, were sprayed, stripped and burned. The belongings of the tenant were examined and treated. The house was subsequently re-visited on several occasions in order to ensure that it was remaining free from infestation.

The Sanitary Inspector visits the homes of intended Council house tenants to ascertain if any steps are required before removing their belongings to Council Houses.



#### 4. SCHOOLS.

41 visits were made to Schools in the Area.

In view of the proposed scheme to concentrate Schools into larger centralised buildings the County Education Authority are naturally reluctant to incur a large expense on Schools likely shortly to be disused. They have, however, promptly attended to minor and urgent matters brought to the notice of their officials throughout the year.

At several Voluntary Schools improvements were effected during the year. Boxford in addition to drainage and sanitary arrangement improvements relaid the school playground, drainage improvements were made at the Wattisham and Polstead schools and improved sanitary arrangements provided at Hitcham School.

The prevalence of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) necessitated the closure of Polstead and Nayland Schools each for two weeks.

The necessary co-operation with the County School Medical Service was maintained throughout the year, and disinfection of school premises carried out.

The principal non-notifiable infectious diseases reported among school children were Mumps, 66 cases all in the last quarter of the year, Chickenpox, 7 cases and Whooping Cough, 3 cases.



SECTION D.

H O U S I N G.

1. (1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	407
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	672
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	32
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	77
2. <u>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice.</u>	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	48
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>	
(a) <u>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	59
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
(a) By Owners	27
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) <u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) <u>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders were made	2
(b) Undertakings accepted not to relet for human habitation	25
(c) Undertakings accepted to repair in specified time	5
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	19



(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	5
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	5
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	29
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	70
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) The Council possessed 226 tenanted houses at the end of 1938. 30 Council houses were completed during 1938. Overcrowding, as defined by the legal standards, has almost been entirely eradicated.	

SECTION E:

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers registered	56
" " Cowsheds and Dairies	56
" " Registered Retailers	34
" " Visits to Cowsheds & Dairies	267
" " Notices issued in respect of unclean production of Milk	Nil
" " Contraventions found	2
" " Contraventions remedied	2
" " Premises found to require cleansing	4
" " Premises found to require structural alterations	1
" " Bacteriological samples taken	4

Legal Proceedings

Nil



(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	14
" " Licensed "	4
" " Newly-licensed "	Nil
" " Visits to "	205

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed		Not	known.		
Number inspected (All diseases except Tuberculosis.)	72	2	21	105	231
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.87
<u>(Tuberculosis only.)</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

Number of lb. of meat seized	Nil
" " lb. of meat destroyed without resort to seizure	72
" " Nuisances found and abated in Slaughterhouses	2
" " Licensed slaughterhouses removed from the register through non-use	Nil
" " Visits to butchers' shops	117

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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(c) ADULTERATION ETC.

The County Council's Inspector of Food and Drugs carries out the duties in connection with the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Acts.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

We did not require the services of the East Suffolk County Laboratory for this work during the year.

(e) NUTRITION.

The County Council have extended their Milk in Schools Scheme so that several necessitous children in our Area benefit by the provision of free milk in schools.

(f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).

No beds exist, neither is there any sale of Shell-Fish in the Area.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases which occurred during the year. The number of cases of Infectious Disease was above the average, although the Scarlet Fever was of a very mild type. Like many other Counties we had several cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Disease.	Total cases notified	ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 193												Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
		-1-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever	40	-	-	3	5	4	7	7	3	4	2	5	-	8	-
Diphtheria	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	2	1	1
Erysipelas	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	3	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Poliomyelitis	7	-	1	-	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
TOTAL	68	1	1	3	7	5	11	10	4	6	6	9	5	19	1



T U B E R C U L O S I S .

New cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
 TOTAL	 1938	1	5	-	2	-	3	-
	1937	2	9	-	1	4	3	1
	1936	5	4	2	2	-	3	-
								1

The 39 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1938, together with corresponding figures for 1937 and 1936 are shown below:-

		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL.	
		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
31. 12. 38		15	10	7	7	22	17
31. 12. 37		14	13	8	9	22	22
31. 12. 36		17	10	14	8	31	18





